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Overview of the Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program

History

Historically, the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) administered one grant program specifically for Indian tribes, the STOP Violence Against Indian Women Discretionary Grants Program (STOP VAIW Program). The STOP VAIW Program was funded from a five-percent set-aside from the STOP Formula Program for state governments. In addition, OVW administered four other grant programs that contained a five-percent set-aside for tribal governments¹. Tribal governments were eligible to apply to OVW for funding from three other grant programs that did not have tribal set-asides². The way in which OVW makes grant award funds available to tribal governments has been significantly changed by the passage of the Violence Against Women Act of 2005 (VAWA 2005).

Title IX of VAWA 2005 increased each of the set-asides for tribal governments in OVW's grant programs from five percent to ten percent. It creates new set-asides for tribal governments from two grant programs.² Title IX also consolidates all but one of the tribal set-asides to create the Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program (Tribal Governments Program).³ It is hoped that the consolidation of the funds from seven grant programs into one will help remove some of the challenges that tribes faced in accessing grant funding from OVW in the past.

What Happened to the STOP VAIW Program?

The Tribal Governments Program has replaced the STOP VAIW Program. Current STOP VAIW Program grant award recipients who are seeking grant funding to continue their STOP VAIW-funded projects should apply for Tribal Governments Program funding. (See "Other Considerations" on pages 13-14 of this *Guide* for more details). There are many differences between the two programs. The most important differences in terms of applying for funding from OVW are that:

- Tribes do not have to provide matching funds;
- There are no certification requirements;
- There is no coordinated community response requirement; and
- There is greater flexibility in how the grant funds can be spent.

¹ Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Protection Order Enforcement Program; Legal Assistance for Victims Program; Rural Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, and Child Victimization Enforcement Assistance Program; and the Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Exchange Program.

² Grants for Education, Training and Enhancing Services to End Violence Against and Abuse of Women with Disabilities; Grants for Enhanced Training Services to End Violence Against Women in Later Life; and the Transitional Housing Assistance Program.

³ VAWA 2005 creates a ten-percent set-aside for tribal governments from the Transitional Housing Assistance Program that is used to fund the Tribal Governments Program. There will also be a ten-percent set-aside in a new grant program, the Court Training and Improvements Program that is to be used to fund the Tribal Governments Program, if Congress appropriates funds for the program.

⁴ Seven percent of the Legal Assistance to Victims Program is used to fund the Tribal Governments Program, while the remaining three-percent is left in the Legal Assistance to Victims Program to support Indian country projects.

Other OVW Grant Programs to Which Tribes Can Apply

Tribal governments are still eligible to apply for funding from any of the OVW grant programs listed below:

- Grants for Education, Training, and Enhanced Services to End Violence Against and Abuse of Women with Disabilities;
- Grants for Enhanced Training and Services to End Violence Against Women in Later Life;
- Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Protection Order Enforcement Program;
- Legal Assistance to Victims Program;
- Rural Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking and Child Victimization Enforcement Assistance Program;
- Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Exchange Program; and
- Transitional Housing Assistance Program.

Tribal governments that submit an application to any other OVW grant program will have to satisfy all of the eligibility and certification requirements of the program in order to receive an award from that program. (Please visit the OVW Web site for more information on these programs: www.usdoj.gov/ovw.)

Eligibility

Basic Eligibility Information

Title IX of VAWA 2005 establishes who is eligible to receive funding from the Tribal Governments Program. OVW will accept applications for Tribal Governments Program funding from any of the following:

1. A Federally-recognized Indian Tribe;
2. The Authorized Designee of a Federally-recognized Indian Tribe; or
3. A Tribal Consortium.

Additional Eligibility Requirements

Each eligible applicant must satisfy all of the program eligibility requirements in order to receive an award from the Tribal Governments Program.

Collaboration Requirement

Title IX requires that each tribe or organization that is eligible to apply for Tribal Governments Program funding consult with a specific type of organization or group to implement the project. There are three ways to satisfy this requirement:

1. Partner with a nonprofit, nongovernmental Indian victim services program from the tribal or local community;
2. Partner with a nonprofit, nongovernmental tribal domestic violence or sexual assault coalition (if they exist in your community); or
3. Partner with an advisory committee of women from the community that will be served by the project.

This collaboration requirement is very important. Tribal communities that have had the most success in addressing violence committed against Indian women have all had one thing in common: they have worked closely with individuals and organizations who are well qualified to know the needs of Alaska Native and American Indian women who have been the victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Selecting a Partner

The following information is offered to guide to you in selecting an appropriate partner for your project:

Nonprofit, Nongovernmental Indian Victim Services Programs

Nonprofit victim services programs, such as domestic violence shelter programs or rape crisis centers, have developed a deep understanding of the needs of victims of violence against women. They not only understand what victims need, they also know how to create programs and policies that appeal to victims. In addition, they know the kinds of programs and policies that will discourage victims from seeking help. It is critical to have the input of the staff from these organizations in developing your project. It is also important that the nonprofit, nongovernmental Indian victim services provider that you choose to partner with satisfy certain criteria.

Ideally, you should partner with a nonprofit victim services program whose primary purpose is to serve adult female American Indian or Alaska Native victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and whose staff has a demonstrated history of assisting American Indian or Alaska Native victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Nonprofit Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions

Nonprofit tribal coalitions are organizations that have been created to make changes in the way communities respond to violence committed against Indian women. They are dedicated to changing laws, policies, and practices that make Alaska Native and American Indian women less safe. Tribal coalitions work to educate tribal leaders and community members about domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The coalitions have wide range of knowledge and experience that can help tribal governments develop programs and policies that are victim sensitive.

Advisory Committees

Not all tribal communities have a nonprofit, nongovernmental Indian victim services provider on or near their lands. Nor do nonprofit tribal domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions exist in every tribal community. Tribal communities without access to these organizations do have a valuable local resource to help them develop a good response to violence against Indian women. That resource is the women of their own community. The women from the community to be served by the project can be invited to serve on an advisory committee for the project.

Who Should Serve on the Advisory Committee?

There are three groups of community residents you should consider inviting to serve on your advisory committee. In order of priority, these groups are:

- (1) Survivors:** Women who are survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking can draw on their personal experiences to identify the gaps in services in your community. They can also help to identify existing policies and practices that act as barriers to victims accessing services in your community.
- (2) Victim Advocates:** Women who have a history of providing assistance to American Indian or Alaska Native women who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking can be a valuable asset in your efforts to develop an effective response to these crimes in your community.
- (3) Women Who Are Committed to Ending Violence Against Women:** If you are unable to identify survivors or victim advocates to serve on the advisory committee, then you should invite women from your community who are committed to ending violence against women to serve on the committee. These women should be willing to participate in education and training opportunities to increase their understanding of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The women should also be willing and able to meet together on a regular basis to discuss issues related to violence against women in your community.

The Role of the Nonprofit Partner or Advisory Committee

It is critical that your nonprofit partner or advisory committee have a leadership role in implementing your project. The partner or committee should also meet with program staff and

partners on a regular basis to discuss the status of the grant-funded project and to make suggestions for improvement. If your nonprofit partner or advisory committee is not actively involved in implementing the project in a meaningful way, then it will be difficult for your tribe to develop a victim-sensitive response to violence against women.

Summary of Eligibility Requirements

Type of Applicant	Nonprofit Partner?	Tribal Resolution?	Program Scope?
Federally-recognized Indian Tribe	Yes	No	Yes
Authorized Designee	Yes ⁵	Yes	Yes
Tribal Consortium	Yes	Yes	Yes

⁵ An authorized designee of a Federally-recognized Indian tribe that is a qualified nonprofit, nongovernmental Indian victim services provider organization or a tribal domestic violence or sexual assault coalition may be exempt from this requirement. (See page 22 of the *FY 2007 Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program* for details.)

Types of Applicants

There are two types of applicants for the Tribal Governments Program:

1. **New Applicant:** a tribe or organization that has never before received funding from OVW, or a tribe or organization that has received OVW grant funding in the past, but that does not currently have an active OVW grant award.
2. **Current Grantee:** a tribe or organization that has at least one current, active grant award from the OVW.

Review of the Status of the Current Project Section

OVW evaluates how well its current grantees have performed with the grant funding that they previously received from the Office as part of the decision about whether or not they should receive additional funding. Current grantees can lose up to 25 points from their final application score if they have not performed well on their current grant awards. OVW evaluates the performance of current grantees as part of the internal review process. The evaluation criteria that OVW uses can be found on pages 13-14 of the *FY 2007 Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program Solicitation*.

Part One: Grantee Performance

During the first part of the evaluation of current grantees OVW looks at:

- The progress made in accomplishing the goals and objectives of the original project;
- Compliance with the special conditions of the current grant award agreement;
- Timely submission of required program progress reports and financial status reports;
- Compliance with the Office of Justice Programs' financial guidelines; and
- Whether the funds from the current grant award have been spent only on allowable expenditures.

OVW uses information from the following sources to complete this evaluation:

- Information presented in the Status of the Current Project section in the project narrative of the application for continuation funding;
- Program progress reports and financial status reports;
- Information obtained during any on-site monitoring visit from OVW or the Office of the Comptroller; and
- Correspondence exchanged between OVW and the grantee.

It is extremely important that current grantees maintain communication with their assigned OVW Program Specialist. Circumstances may occur that prevent current grantees from completing their project goals and objectives on time; or, current grantees may experience technical difficulties in submitting their required reports in a timely manner. Your OVW Program Specialist will not be aware of these challenges unless you inform him/her.

Appendix D

**Sample Letter of Support A:
Indian Victim Services Organization
Tribal Domestic Violence or Sexual Assault Coalition**

**Sample Letter of Support B:
Advisory Committee Letter**

Sample Letter of Exemption

The Letter of Support/Exemption should be included in the hard copy of the application that will be sent by over-night delivery.

Letter of Support A

[Organization's Official Letterhead]

[Date]

Mary Beth Buchanan, Acting Director
Office on Violence Against Women
U.S. Department of Justice
800 K Street, NW, Ste. 920
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Acting Director Buchanan:

The **[name of organization]** submits this letter in support of the Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program (GTIG Program) application that has been submitted by **[name of lead applicant]**. **[Name of organization]** was founded in **[year organization was founded]**, and is located in **[name of city, state]**. The primary purpose of **[name of organization]** is to *[brief statement of organization's purpose or mission]*. Currently **[name of organization]** provides the following services to victims of *[(choose as appropriate) domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking]*:

- *List services using bullets*

The staff of **[Name of organization]** has significant experience in meeting the needs of Alaska Native or American Indian victims of *[(choose as appropriate) domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking]*:

- *List names/titles of key personnel who will be involved in implementing the proposed project and briefly describe their experience working with Alaska Native or American Indian victims of violence against women*

[Name of organization] has worked closely with **[name of lead applicant]** in developing its application for FY 2007 Tribal Governments Program. Our contributions to the development of the application include:

- *List the name(s)/title(s) of each individual from your organization who has been involved in writing the application for funding. You should also briefly describe how each individual contributed to the creation of the application.*

If **[name of lead applicant]** receives FY 2007 Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program funding, **[name of organization]** plans to continue to play a vital role in developing and implementing the project. Specifically, **[name of organization]** will:

- *Provide specific details about what role your organization will play in developing and implementing the project. You should provide the name(s)/title(s) of each individual from your organization who will be involved with the project, and clearly state how they will contribute to the project.*

[Name of organization] will receive **[total amount of compensation to be received]** in order to support its work on the project. **[Name of organization]** has reviewed the budget for this application and agrees that it includes fair and reasonable compensation for the work that will be performed on this project.

Sincerely,

[Name/title of Organization's Chief Executive Officer]

Sample Letter of Support B

[Date]

Mary Beth Buchanan, Acting Director
Office on Violence Against Women
U.S. Department of Justice
800 K Street, NW, Ste. 920
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Acting Director Buchanan:

This letter has been submitted in support of the FY 2007 Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program (Tribal Governments Program) application that was submitted by **[name of lead applicant]**. We are women who reside in **[name of community to be served by project]**, and we have agreed to serve on an advisory committee for the project if it is selected to receive grant funding. The members of the committee include/will include:

- *Identify committee members by name*
- *State whether the members are: (1) survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking; (2) victim advocates who have experience providing services to Alaska Native or American Indian victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking; or (3) women who are concerned about the problems that domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking have caused in your community.*

We are committed to working with **[name of lead applicant]** to end these crimes in our community.

The committee has played a significant role in helping **[name of lead applicant]** develop its application for Tribal Governments Program funding. Our contributions to the development of the application include:

- *Briefly state how the committee helped create the application for funding. List each individual member of the committee who was involved in creating the application and specifically describe how they helped to create the application.*

During the award period, the committee will meet together *[state frequency (i.e., weekly, monthly, quarterly)]* to review the progress that **[name of lead applicant]** has made in meeting the goals and objectives of the grant project. We will also play an active role in developing and implementing the project, including:

- *Briefly state the specific role that the committee will play in making sure that the project is meeting the needs of the women of the community who are the victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.*

Sincerely,

[List each committee member individually and have them sign and date the letter]

Advisory Committee Member

Date

Advisory Committee Member

Date

Advisory Committee Member

Date

Sample Letter of Exemption

[Authorized Designee's Official Letterhead]

[Date]

Mary Beth Buchanan, Acting Director
Office on Violence Against Women
U.S. Department of Justice
800 K Street, NW, Ste. 920
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Acting Director Buchanan:

[Name of Authorized Designee] has been authorized to submit an application for FY 2007 Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program (Tribal Governments Program) on behalf of [name of Federally-recognized Indian Tribe]. [Name of Authorized Designee] has elected to submit a letter of exemption from the Tribal Governments Program collaboration requirement. [Name of Authorized Designee] is qualified to receive an exemption because it is a *[(choose as appropriate) nonprofit, nongovernmental tribal victim services organization, or a tribal domestic violence or sexual assault coalition]*.

[Name of Authorized Designee] submits the following information to support its request for an exemption:

- *State the year that the organization was founded;*
- *Briefly describe the organization's primary mission or purpose;*
- *Briefly describe the services that the organization currently provides to Alaska Native or American Indian victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking; and*
- *Briefly identify by name/title the key staff from your organization that will be involved with implementing the proposed project and describe their experience in addressing the needs of Alaska Native or American Indian victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.*

[Name of Authorized Designee] has a history of providing services to the women of [name of Federally-recognized tribe]. Specifically, we have:

- *Briefly describe how long your organization has worked in partnership with the tribal government of the community to be served;*
- *State how long your organization has served the women of the community; and*
- *Briefly describe the services that your organization has provided to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking in the community that will be served by the project.*

We have worked with [name of Federally-recognized Indian tribe] to develop this application for Tribal Governments Program funding. We have taken the following steps to ensure that

[name of Federally-recognized Indian tribe] has been actively involved with developing this application for funding:

- *Describe how your organization sought input from the tribe in developing the application. You should specific information about when and how often the tribe was consulted about the content of the application.*
- *Identify the tribal government representatives who were involved with creating the application by name/title.*

[Name of Authorized Designee] recognizes that the proposed project will only be effective if it meets the needs of the women of **[name of Federally-recognized Indian tribe]**. In order to ensure that the project is meeting the needs of victims of *[(choose as appropriate) domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking]* in the **[name of Federally-recognized Indian tribe]** community, we will:

- Describe the specific actions that your organization will take to make sure that the project is meeting the needs of victims in the community that will be served by the project.

Sincerely,

[Name/Title of Chief Executive of Authorized Designee]

Appendix E
Sample Tribal Resolution A
Tribal Consortia Applicants

Sample Tribal Resolution B
Authorized Designee Applicants

Please Note: These samples have been provided for use as guidance only. You should consult with your attorney or legal counsel before drafting your resolution.

Sample Tribal Resolution A

[On Official Letterhead]

TO SUPPORT AND AUTHORIZE THE SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FOR FUNDING TO THE GRANTS TO INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS GRANT PROGRAM FOR 2007 FUNDING

RESOLUTION NO: _____

WHEREAS, the Tribes of the XXX Alliance, is a consortium of the tribes consisting of Tribe XXX, Tribe XXX, and Tribe XXX; and

WHEREAS, the Tribes of the XXX Alliance was established in 2003 to provide community based services, including education, social services, community services, employment and training, economic development, and administrative support services; and

WHEREAS, the Tribes of the XXX Alliance are seeking funding as a new applicant to develop a program in our communities to address the issues of violence against Indian women including, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; and

WHEREAS, the Tribes of the XXX Alliance recognize that violence against our Indian women in any form is unacceptable and the safety of all our members is at risk; and

WHEREAS, the Tribes of the XXX Alliance has determined that women from our community will be involved in the creation of a program that addresses violence against women; and

WHEREAS, the Tribes of the XXX Alliance support submission of this application to acquire funds to establish programs in the Tribe of XXX, Tribe of XXX and the Tribe of XXX that will consist of victim services, establish a transitional housing program and work to improve the civil and criminal justice response by providing training and establishing a coordinated community response in each community; and

WHEREAS, the Tribes of the XXX Alliance will commit to support and work closely with women from our community to establish a transitional housing program for our women and children; and

WHEREAS, the Tribes of the XXX Alliance will commit to working closely with women from our community to establish a coordinated community response to the violence; and

WHEREAS, the Tribes of the XXX Alliance will commit to working closely with women from our community to provide training to enhance the civil and criminal justice response in our communities; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Tribes of the XXX Alliance in consultation with women from the community, has agreed to submit this application for funding to the Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program on behalf of Tribe XXX, Tribe XXX and Tribe XXX to support and address the issues of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Tribes of the XXX Alliance will be the lead agency in the submission of this application on behalf of Tribe XXX, Tribe XXX, and Tribe XXX and will assume full responsibility for the fiscal integrity as well as program development and implementation of this application.

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

We hereby certify that Resolution No: _____ was considered and adopted at a duly called meeting of the XXX Nation held on _____ 2007 at which a quorum was present. The vote was ____ in favor, __ opposed, ____ abstained, and ____ absent.

Signed this ____ day of _____ 2007.

XXXXXXX, Governor
Tribe XXX

XXXXXXX, President
Tribe XXX

XXXXXXX, Chairman
Tribe XXX

XXXXXXX, Executive Director
Tribes of the XXX Alliance

(NOTE: In some cases the certification page is only signed by the Executive Director and Secretary of a consortium of tribes, and individual signatures of tribal nations is not necessary. This is a "Sample" document only and your resolution and signature page may be different depending on how your tribe or organization typically drafts resolutions).

Sample Resolution B
[Tribe's Official Letterhead]

**TO SUPPORT AND AUTHORIZE THE SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FOR FUNDING TO
THE GRANTS TO INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS GRANT PROGRAM FOR 2007
FUNDING**

RESOLUTION NO: _____

WHEREAS, XXX Nation, is a Federally-recognized Indian tribe capable of exercising its sovereign authority to create laws and policies that protect the health, safety, and welfare of its people, and is therefore eligible to apply for Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program funding; and

WHEREAS, XXX Nation has elected to enter into a collaborative partnership with the Tribal Nations' Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Program, a nonprofit, nongovernmental, Indian victim services organization, to develop and implement a program that will address acts of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking committed against the women of the XXX Nation; and

WHEREAS, **[Authorized Designee]**, in consultation with XXX Nation and Tribal Nation Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Program, has developed an application for Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program funding; and

WHEREAS, the **[Authorized Designee]** based on ongoing discussions with XXX Nation, is seeking funding as a new applicant to develop a program in our community to address the issues of family violence including, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; and

WHEREAS, the XXX Nation recognize that violence against our Indian women in any form is unacceptable and the safety of all our members is at risk; and

WHEREAS, the XXX Nation, Tribal Nation Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Program, and the **[Authorized Designee]** support submission of this application to acquire funds to establish a program that will develop victim services, establish a transitional housing program and work to improve the civil and criminal justice response by providing training and establishing a coordinated community response for the XXX Nation; and

WHEREAS, the XXX Nation will commit to support and work closely with the Tribal Nation Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Program and the **[Authorized Designee]** to establish a transitional housing program, for our women and children; and

WHEREAS, the XXX Nation will commit to support and work closely with the Tribal Nation Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Program and the **[Authorized Designee]** to work on establishing a coordinated community response to the violence; and

WHEREAS, the XXX Nation will commit to support and work closely with the Tribal Nation Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Program and the **[Authorized Designee]** to provide training to enhance the civil and criminal justice response in the XXX Nation; and

WHEREAS, the XXX Nation will commit to support and work closely with the Tribal Nation Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Program and the **[Authorized Designee]** to establish a coordinated community response to stop violence against Indian women in the XXX Nation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the **[Authorized Designee]** has agreed to submit this application for funding to the Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program on behalf of the XXX Nation to support and address the issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and elder abuse.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the **[Authorized Designee]** will be the lead agency in the submission of this application on behalf of XXX Nation and will assume full responsibility for the fiscal integrity as well as program development and implementation of this application.

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

We hereby certify that Resolution No: _____ was considered and adopted at a duly called meeting of the XXX Nation held on _____ 2007 at which a quorum was present. The vote was ____ in favor, ____ opposed, ____ abstained, and ____ absent.

Signed this _____ day of _____ 2007.

XXXXXXX, Governor/President/Chairman
XXX Nation

XXXXXXX, Tribal Secretary
XXX Nation

(NOTE: In some cases the certification page is only signed by the Governor/President/Chairman and Secretary of the tribe. This is a "Sample" document only and your resolution and signature page may be different depending on how your tribe or organization typically drafts resolutions).